

Design Standards Committee Meeting Minutes
May 13, 2003
City of Tukwila
Suite 100 Conference Room 5
Tukwila, WA 98188
9:00AM – 3:30PM

At a Glance

- Introductions
- Local Agency Design Matrix
- NHS Design Standards
- Sidewalks and Bikes
- Draft changes to the Geometric Cross-Section Chart
- Roundabout Design Standards
- Deviations vs. Design Exceptions on trails
- Safety of Rural Principle and Minor Arterial and Rural Collector Roads in Washington State

IN DETAIL

Present:

Al King, Gary Hughes, Lynn Price, Ken Brown, Jim Whitbread, Dale Rancour, Jim Seitz, Randy Hart, Larry Schofield, Brian Moorehead, Bob Moorhead, Mike Johnson, Jim Nichols, Pat O'Neill, Mike Horton, Paul Bennett, Bob Turpin, Randy Hart, Paula Reeves, Dave Olson, and Ron Pate

Introductions

All present introduced themselves.

Local Agency Design Matrix

Ron Pate gave a brief background on the matrix past history and introduced Mike Horton, Olympic Region Local Programs Engineer. Mike was one of the founders and developers of matrices within WSDOT and volunteered to work with the committee on the development. Mike described the process the authors (Mike Horton, Dick Egolf, Brian Moorehead, and Ron Pate) used to produce the version that was being reviewed. A key element was to have the matrix reflect the same levels of design that are in the City and County Design Standards. Mike overviewed project types, design elements, definitions and design levels. Discussion took place on specific project types, defining levels, definitions, and how documentation fits in this process. One idea was to create a simple optional checklist to go along with the Matrix. The committee liked the concept and work that had been done. The consensus was to make the discussed changes, send out for review, begin the process of presenting it to local agencies, and work toward incorporating it into the City and County Design Standards.

***Action Item:** Ron will meet with authors, make changes based on the committee's discussions, and develop a simple checklist for committee review.*

NHS Design Standards

Ron Pate presented a draft of NHS Design Standards for possible inclusion in the City and County Design Standards (CCDS). Discussion focused on project types and a comparison of 3R projects with the modified design standards in the WSDOT Design Manual. If local agencies do not have "Full Control Access" facilities, that level would not need to be addressed. The committee recommended that Ron work with Dave Olson (WSDOT Design) to determine how WSDOT design manual levels can be applied to 3R standards for NHS projects and develop a reference for the CCDS to the WSDOT Design Manual.

***Action Item:** Ron and Dave, develop reference language, and send out for review.*

Sidewalks and Bikes

Paula Reeves presented information and overviewed how this issue was placed on the agenda. Paula's concern and question to the group was how bicycle standards are implemented on identified significant bicycle routes within cities and counties. For discussion purposes, she had added a draft footnote to the Geometric Cross-section chart within the standards for discussion. "(k) If route has been identified as a local, state, or regional significant bike route, the minimum shoulder width is 4 feet." Al asked various members of the committee to address how their agency addresses bike and pedestrian facilities on these types of routes. The overall response indicated that regional plans are looked at and they do accommodate cyclists in designs. A concern of committee's was that regional planning organizations should try to work with each other in blending systems across jurisdictions. They also felt that the draft footnote (k) should not be part of the standards. It may force designers to pick that as the easy answer and not look at all of the options when designing a facility. The addition of an item in the text of the standards directing agencies to the appropriate information to consider and make a determination of bicycle needs in the project, coupled with a notation in the local agency matrix checklist that gives designers a heads up to look at planning information would be helpful.

***Action Item:** Ron will draft item for matrix checklist and send out for review.*

Draft change to the Geometric Cross-Section Chart

The draft change increased shoulder widths to 2 ft for curbed sections on all classifications. Currently, the cells for those items are blank with an overall roadway width of 24 ft from curb face to curb face. This change would have made the roadway total width 28 ft. The committee reviewed this and how AASHTO documentation discusses shoulder widths. A point was made that the word shoulder for curb sections was confusing and might be changed to shy distance for clarification. After review of how the blank cell originated, the committee decided to leave 24 ft in the roadway width and place 0 ft in the shoulder width. This would give a 1-foot shy distance and an 11-foot lane; meeting the AASHTO criteria for curbed sections.

***Action Item:** Ron will add 0 ft to the Geometric Cross Section Chart.*

Roundabout Design Standards

Al King outlined where we are and the desirable outcome. Until a standard is adopted, the committee has these options:

- Use the WSDOT Design Manual chapter 915 as is
- Use the AASHTO Guidance
- Use the FHWA Roundabout Guide

Gary Hughes mentioned that FHWA evaluates roundabouts with the FHWA Roundabout Guide. Currently, the WSDOT Design Manual chapter 915 is under review and changes will be made that should address concerns that were voiced by the committee in previous

meetings. A main area of concern, “Locations Not Normally Recommended for Roundabouts.” Dave Olson of the design office said this area would be looked at as the chapter is revisited. The committee decided to wait for revisions to WSDOT Design Manual chapter 915 to be completed before adopting a standard. By doing so, each roundabout design in a federal aid project will be reviewed and approved individually. In addition, the group wanted to obtain copies of the FHWA Roundabout Guide for Review.

***Action Item:** Ron will obtain copies of the FHWA Guide for Roundabouts for the committee.*

Safety of Rural Principal and Minor Arterial and Rural Collector Roads in Washington State

Gary Hughes handed out statistical rural fatality rate information that was assembled by Paul Harker of FHWA. The information compared Washington State rural fatality rates with the national average for 1999 and 2000. Gary mentioned he was concerned that Washington is higher than the national average in rural categories. For 1999, Washington was above the national rate in, Principle Arterials, Minor Arterials, and Collectors. For 2000, Washington was above the national rate in, Principle Arterials and Minor Arterials. Gary suggested that we look at our standards to see what could be done to help get these numbers below the national average. Discussion took place and the committee requested information on the background data. Additional Information on types of accidents, driver information, times, volumes etc... would be of help in determining appropriate changes. Gary will work on obtaining the additional information as well as information for the year 2001 and newer.

***Action Item:** Gary will present background data at the next committee meeting for review.*

The meeting adjourned at 3:30PM.